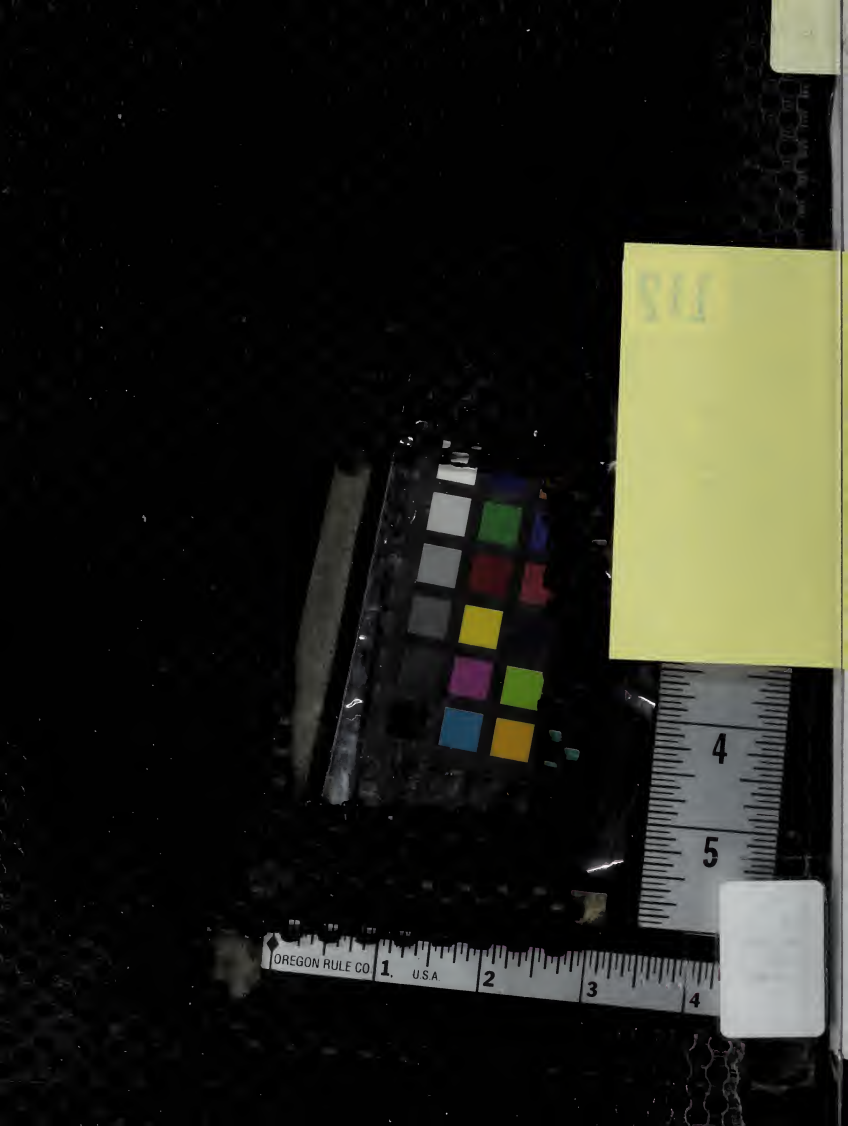
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Meeting of

Elections Task Force

AGENDA

Thursday, February 16,1994

1660 Mission Street, Suite 2001
San Francisco, California
6:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of minutes of February 9, 1994 meeting
4. Presentation by City Attorney staff on Voting Rights Act and implications for the committee
5. Brief presentation by MALDEF, NAACP, Asian Law Caucus on legal perspectives
6. Report from David Binder, consultant
7. Discussion of budget proposal
8. Public comment
9. Adjournment

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See the reverse for the meeting location.

TRANSPORTATION The closest accessible MUNI lines serving this location are:

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26 Valencia (Inbound disembark @ Market & Gough)

STREET PARKING: Two blue zones at 1695 Mission Street near the corner of Duboce & Mission and two on Otis near Duboce.

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

AGENDA

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1995 - 2:00 P.M.

ROOM 168, CITY HALL
CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING ROOM

1. SWEARING IN OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS
   Supervisor Terence Hallinan

2. ADOPTION OF RULES AND SCHEDULE

3. SELECTION OF TASK FORCE OFFICERS

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SF

MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

AGENDA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

1660 MISSION STREET, SUITE 2001
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. ELECTION OF PERMANENT OFFICERS
2. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENT OF RULES AND OBLIGATIONS
3. CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON SPACE, STAFF, JOB DESCRIPTION, ETC.
4. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS BY TASK FORCE MEMBERS
5. PRESENTATION BY MR. CALVIN WELCH
6. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH MR. DAVID BINDER
7. PUBLIC COMMENT

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Committee on Elections

Task Force

Meeting Minutes
February 9,1994
101 Grove Street
San Francisco, California
6:00 PM

Members present: Eric Mar; Dale Shimasaki; Carmen White; Ramon Arias; Chris Bowman; Nancy Lenvin;
Germaine Wong (ex-officio)
Others present: Margie O'Driscoll, David Binder, consultants;
John Taylor, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Carmen White.

Commissioner Bowman noted several misspellings of names in the minutes of the previous meeting. These changes were noted and the minutes were unanimously approved, following a motion by Commissioner White and seconded by Chris Bowman.

Chair Gwenn Craig began chairing the meeting at 6:15.

Commisisoner White noted that she had spoken with T.J. Anthony of Supervisor Kaufman's office who informed her that the work of the Charter Reform group was separate from the issues to be addressed by this committee. Commissioner Bowman noted that he had spoken with National Women's Political Caucus Chair, Catherine Murphy about the work of the committee.

Commissioner Butler arrived at 6:18. Commissioner Wong arrived at 6:30 pm.

John Taylor asked the committee to accept Margie O'Driscoll as its staffperson. By acclamation, this was accepted. The Committee office will be in the Office of the Registrar of Voters, 633 Folsom, San Francisco CA 94107. The telephone number, (554-5777) will be installed with voice mail, next week. Staff hours are to be determined.

Steven Hill, Regional Director of the Center for Voting and Democracy began his presentation on proportional representation and preferential voting or a modified, at-large system. This model is in existence in Cambridge, MA and various European countries. Voters rank candidates by preference (1,2,3,4) so that if a voter's top choice doesn't win, their vote transfers to their lower choices until their vote elects someone. He observed that this is preferable to the current system in San Francisco since: the number of votes needed by a candidate to win is reduced; candidates campaign in a targeted manner, thus reducing the cost of campaigning. He also noted that limited voting is in existence in Hartford, CT; Philadelphia, Penn.; and Washington, D.C.

This system would also change the percentage of votes needed for election. Currently members of the Board of Supervisors must receive 35-45% of the vote to be elected; preferential voting reduces this percentage to approximately 9% (if al Supervisors are elected at the same time). Further, it was noted that many cities elect all elected officials at the same time (not in rotating years as is the current San Francisco system).

In response to a question from Commissioner Arias, it was noted that the cost of elections could increase initially (since the simplest manner is not the the currently employed system of punch cards but rather a scanner to be used to read dots pencilled in on a ballot). Mr. Hill also noted that the biggest hurdle of this system is voter education, due to its complexity. This system is also less

expensive, he said. Preference voting would also eliminate the need for runoff elections (e.g. in mayoral elections).

In response to a question from Commissioner Wong, Mr. Hill noted that ethnicity of elected officials better parallels the demographics of a city when this system is used. Germaine Wong, responding to Commissioner Wong, noted that if this system had been in place in November 1994, the election outcome would have been different. Since Supervisor Shelley was the highest vote-getter most assume that he was the most popular Supervisor, however, he received the most votes as the second or third choice which allowed him to become the overall favorite as opposed to the highest vote-getter in the most precincts.

Chair Craig observed that this process may better represent groups by identity (i.e.sexual orientation or ethnicity) than it meets community or neighborhood needs. Commissioner Bowman asked Mr. Hill to send voting analysis information, in places where this is used.

David Spero, a member of the audience, inquired why a similar proposal had lost in Cincinnati. Mr. Hill said it was because conservatives refused to support it as a settlement to a Voting Rights lawsuit.

At 7:40 the Committee recessed for a 10 minute break. The meeting resumed at 7:50 PM.

Consultant David Binder gave information he was asked to present at the previous meeting. Neighborhoods with the largest labor support are Excelsior and Visitacion Valley. Through discussion with several data research firms, the size of the Jewish population was variously estimated at 24,000-36,000 voters. Lists of these names would be available for a cost of $300- 500.

He noted that Supervisor Conroy, despite being the highest vote getter in a significant number of San Francisco precincts, was not re-elected. He further observed that many voters choose what they vote for or against (i.e. 95% of voters voted on the highly publicized Prop. 187, however only 70% voted for Supervisors and 38-45% voted for judges.)

Marc Wollin, a member of the audience, expressed that concern over religion and sexual orientation will lead to ghetto-ization, despite the fact that many people may be in favor of district elections. He urged the committee to be cautious in its proceedings.

Commissioner White then presented a citizen participation plan to the committee. Germaine Wong noted the need to get as many groups as possible involved as soon as possible. Commissioner Lenvin urged caution and asked that the committee not seek community input without progressing further in its work. After much discussion the plan was tabled until the following meeting. (Motion: Butler, second, Wong, unanimously approved.)

However, staff was asked to send a press release or brief information letter, as soon as possible, to community groups listed in "Kilroy's List of Politically Active Groups". This should be done to let community groups know that the Committee is functional.

Commissioner Bowman requested that the agendas for the following two meetings be developed. He requested that Professor Rich deLeon at San Francisco State University present information about the election process in other jurisdictions, with an analysis of the impact of systems on an election (if available.) By consensuses it was decided that this would take place at the Feb. 23 meeting.

The following meeting would focus on presentations from a variety of community legal service agencies (NAACP, MALDEF and the Asian Law Caucus) and the San Francisco City Attorney.

At 9:20 public comment was requested. Leslie Yee made a proposal to the committee.

Following a motion by Commissioner Arias, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Margie O'Driscoll

Elections Task Force

Minutes
February 16, 1995 Meeting
1660 Mission St., #2001
San Francisco
(Office address: 633 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94107 ph: 554-5777 fax: 554-7344)

Commissioners present: Lenvin, Bowman, Butler, White, Arias, Craig
Ex-officio member present: Germaine Q. Wong, Registrar of Voters
Excused: Commissioner Shimasaki
Absent: Commissioner Mar

The meeting was called to order by Chair Craig at 6:13 PM.

Commissioners made opening comments. Commissioner Butler said that he would be speaking to Labor to Neighbor next Tuesday evening. Chair Craig said that she had addressed the Potrero Hill Democratic Club on the work of the Task Force and in attendance were presidents of other Democratic clubs throughout the City.

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved, following a motion of Commissioner Arias, seconded by Commissioner Lenvin.

Agenda Items 4 and 5 were tabled.

The motion to request representatives of MALDEF, Asian Law Caucus, the African American community and the City Attorney's office to attend two weeks from this meeting (March 2nd) was approved by unanimous consensus.

Chair Craig noted that David Binder (consultant to the Committee) was excused this evening.

Following a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Lenvin, the draft budget was approved with the request that staff estimate the cost of benefits, payroll taxes, etc.. Germaine Q. Wong stated that this would not be a significant cost and the budget was approved unanimously.

The Task Force then examined a draft , "Report from the Elections Task Force" a statement of the activities and plan of the task force to be sent to approximately 1000 citizens groups. Commissioner Arias suggested that an introduction be added, explaining that the group was created in response to legislation passed by the voters. Also, he requested that the letter emphasize that the meetings are open to the public and that public opinion is necessary for the success of the work of the group. Commissioner Craig noted that it is important to mention options that the Committee is considering including, but not limited to: representational voting, district elections and numbered seats.

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Following a motion by Commissioner Samson Wong, seconded by Commissioner Bowman, the Committee unanimously requested that the document be sent as soon as possible.

Following a motion by Commissioner Butler, seconded by Commissioner Bowman, it was decided that the regular meeting place for the committee would be 1660 Mission Street, #2001 EXCEPT for the following meeting which will be held at 101 Grove St., 3rd floor conference room (due to a scheduling conflict.)

Commissioner Bowman moved that the Committee hold 5 community meetings in March, in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Lenvin. Community meetings will be held on March 7, 11, 14, 18, 21 or 25 depending upon availability of meeting rooms. Meetings are to be held in 5 quadrants of the City: Richmond, Sunset, North Beach/ Chinatown, Castro/ Mission and Bayview/Hunters Point.

Commissioner Arias added to the motion that the meetings be scheduled for three hours (i.e. 6:00- 9:00 PM and Saturdays, 1:00-4:00 PM.) He also seconded a friendly amendment from Commissioner Lenvin that speakers be limited to 3 minutes, organizations be encouraged to send a representative and that speaker cards be made available to the public. This expanded motion was approved unanimously.

The Committee adjourned for a five minute break between 8:00- 8:05 PM.

Following a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner White, the Task Force considered a questionnaire submitted by Commissioner Bowman. Germaine Q. Wong suggested the addition of information on the job of Supervisor, comparable salaries in other jurisdictions and a paragraph on voting types (i.e. representational, at-large, numbered seats, etc..) be included. It was decided that further work was necessary on the questionnaire and that it be considered at the next meeting, following revisions by David Binder.

Commissioner Butler moved that at the community meetings, organizations could present the name of a speaker who could speak at the start of a meeting. This was approved by acclamation.

The committee discussed the following meeting (101 Grove Street, 3rd floor conference room). It was suggested that the meeting focus on questions of at-large voting, numbered seats and salaries of members of the Board of Supervisors.

Following a motion from Commissioner Wong, seconded by Commissioner Lenvin, it was moved to also request public input at the beginning of the meeting. This was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.
Minutes submitted by Margie O'Driscoll.

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Elections Task Force

AGENDA

February 23, 1995

101 Grove Street, Third Floor Conference Room

6:00- 9:00 PM

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
4. Discussion of voting systems (at-large, numbered seats, etc.) Speakers to be determined.
5. Conclusion of community meeting format discussion
6. Presentation by Joe Diaz on the New York City experience on a similar issue
7. Voting Rights Update, Randy Riddle, City Attorney's Office
8. Unfinished business
9. Adjournment

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Minutes
Elections Task Force
101 Grove St., 3rd Floor
San Francisco
February 23, 1994
1995

Please note: all subsequent meetings of the Elections Task Force will be held at 1660 Mission St., #2001, San Francisco from 6:00-9:00 PM.

Present: Commissioners Shimasaki, Mar, Butler, Craig, Lenvin, Bowman
Excused: Germaine Q Wong (ex-officio), Commissioners Arias, Wong, White
Others Present: David Binder, Margie O'Driscoll

Meeting was call to order at 6:15 PM by Chair Craig.

During the Commissioner comment period, Commissioner Mar noted that he had met with several Asian -Pacific groups to discuss the work of the Committee. Commissioner Lenvin noted that she had also spoken with City Democratic Club and others who wished to be involved in the process.

Corrections to the minutes: Commissioner Bowman noted that during the public comment period at the previous meeting, he had observed that the Elections Task Force must soon decide whether it is feasible to submit drawn lines for districts (should that be the will of the Task Force) by the May 1st deadline or whether the Task Force should only submit criteria for the drawing of lines (to be completed at a later date.) He also noted that research needs to be done on the New York school board elections which were "taken over" by a particular group. He also noted that Commissioner Wong was present at the last meeting although he arrived late.

The minutes were approved, by consensus, with the notation of these changes.

Randy Riddle of the Office of the City Attorney provided the Task Force with historic information regarding the Voting Rights Act. He noted that unlike the Sunshine Ordinance which is very specific in "how" to achieve certain goals, the Voting Rights Act does not give specific instructions. The aim of this Act is not to guarantee political success but to aim for "equality of opportunity electorally."

It was noted that certain factors were "essential" to a successful claim of vote dilution. In Gomez v. City of Watsonville, the courts determined that first, the minority group must be sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single member district; second, the minority group must be politically cohesive; and, third, the white majority votes enough as a block to defeat minority candidates.

He cautioned the Task Force that district elections could be considered unlawful if they diluted minority effectiveness in voting power. In response to a question from Commissioner Shimasaki, Mr Riddle answered that previous voting patterns, as determined by the courts, determine a "cohesive group." Mr Riddle also noted, in response to a question from Commissioner Bowman, that race and color were included in the definition of ethnicity and that the Voting Rights Act also covers language minorities. Further information is contained in an opinion authored by City Attorney Burk Delventhal in 1990 prepared in response to a voting proposal submitted by Supervisor Tom Hsieh.

The Task Force then addressed the issue of Community meetings which will be held in addition to the regular Thursday evening meetings. Following a motion by Commissioner Shimasaki, seconded by Commissioner

Bowman, the proposed plan was approved with the notation by Commissioner Butler to insert the words "numbered seats" as an option to be reviewed by the Committee.

Consultant David Binder presented a questionnaire for review by the Task Force. In response to a question by Commissioner Lenvin, Mr. Binder noted that not everyone who receives the questionnaire will fill it out, therefore the results will be somewhat biased. Following editorial changes it was unanimously approved by the Task Force following a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Mar.

The Task Force adjourned for a brief break between 8:05- 8:15 PM.

Joe Diaz, who was the Deputy Counsel to the New York City Districting Commission then presented information to the Task Force of his experiences. He noted that 25 staff with a three year timeline completed the work of that Committee. He observed that both New York and San Francisco are diverse cities which will impact the outcome of the work of the Committee and that public participation is essential to the process. Mr. Diaz said that the New York Committee ranked criteria in drawing lines, in the following manner: compliance with the Voting Rights Act; neighborhood integrity; compactness of the district; discouraging borough crossings; not splitting partisan areas and limited county crossings.

He further noted that one of the problems with the Voting Rights Act is that it was written with the idea of one majority and one minority which is not the case in New York or San Francisco. In response to a question from Commissioner Bowman, Mr. Diaz noted that prior to the redistricting in New York there were 35 districts of which 20% were held by minorities. Following redistricting, there were 51 seats, of which 35% were held by minorities. In response to another question from Commissioner Bowman, he stated that preferential voting was not the reason that fundamentalists gained control of the New York school system, it was the organization.

Mr. Diaz also noted that Hispanic community leaders opposed the plan because they believed that since Hispanics comprised 24% of the population, they should receive 13 seats. However, since this community had lower voter turnout rates, lower US citizenship levels and the median age was lower, the New York Task Force could not guarantee this outcome.

Task Force members then determined the agenda for the following meeting.

Following a motion from Commissioner Lenvin, seconded by Commissioner Shimasaki, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Margie O'Driscoll

B.S.D.

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Election Task Force
AGENDA

March 2, ~~1994~~ 1995
1660 Mission Street, #2001
San Francisco, CA
6:00-9:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes and agenda
4. Presentation of information by David Binder
5. Continuation of Discussion of Community Meetings
6. Preliminary Discussion of Drafting Plan Process/
   Discussion of Timeline and Charges of the Task Force
7. Slide Show on Voting Systems by Steven Hill
8. Presentation by Professor Rich DeLeon
9. Unfinished Business
10. Agenda for following meeting
11. Public Comment
12. Adjournment

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Minutes
Elections Task Force
1660 Mission Street, #2001
San Francisco, CA
March 2, 1995

Present: Commissioners Mar, Shimasaki, White S Wong, Bowman, Arias, Craig, Lenvin
Germaine Q Wong (ex-officio)
Excused: Commissioner Butler
Others present: Margie O'Driscoll

Meeting was called to order by Chair Craig at 6:07 PM.
Commissioner Mar noted that he had spoken with a representative of the Asian Law Caucus and Chair Craig noted that she had spoken with members of the Black Leadership Forum about the work of the Elections Task Force. Chair Craig asked that an additional comment of City Attorney Randy Riddle be added to the minutes. In addition to noting that district elections could be considered unlawful if they diluted minority effectiveness in voting power, he also noted that "packing" of minorities into districts could also be considered unlawful.

Following this notation, the minutes were approved unanimously.
Staff reported that approximately 1000 questionnaires and meeting notices were sent to community groups. About 300 were also sent to a list provided by Joe Van Es of "politically active" individuals. Questionnaires are also available at the Registrar of Voters office. With the assistance of the Mayor's Office, a press release was also sent to radio, television and community papers.

Commissioners then discussed the format of community meetings. Commissioner Shimasaki noted that the goal of these meetings is to hear from the public. He proposed that no more than a half hour, at the beginning of the meeting, be used to describe the work of the committee and the charge of the committee. The balance of the time, he stated, should be devoted to hearing from the public.

Germaine Q Wong, Registrar of Voters, suggested that the questionnaire be translated into Chinese and Spanish. It was also suggested that interpreters be available at meetings. Staff was instructed to look into this.

Samson Wong arrived at 6:30 PM and Carmen White at 6:40 PM.

Steven Hill, from the Center for Voting and Democracy, then showed a slide presentation on various kinds of election systems. He also noted that most people use the term "preference" voting and not "preferred" voting, although they are identical. Commissioners then discussed the slide presentation. It was suggested that some of the slides are informative but others are confusing. Following a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Shimasaki, the Task Force unanimously approved appointment of a working group to develop a presentation to present at the next meeting. Members are: Commissioners White, Bowman and Shimasaki, as well as Mr. Diaz and Mr. Hill. (Note: The meeting will be held at noon, Thursday, March 9, 1995 at 633 Folsom St, Registrar of Voters Office.)

Germaine Q Wong also suggested that non-English speaking media be sent information about the work of the committee. Commissioner Shimasaki also pointed out a typographical error in the questionnaire. He noted that in the background information in question 4, the line, "the average salary for County Supervisors in San Francisco is about $36,000" should read, "in California."

Commissioner Lenvin moved to inquire as to whether the deadline of the Task Force (May 1st) could be extended. Staff was instructed to ask City Attorney Randy Riddle to respond in writing. Seconded by Commissioner Bowman, this motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Bowman also noted that to put a proposal on the ballot, six members of the Board of Supervisors must support it. Commissioner Samson Wong commented that voters could

also put a proposal on the ballot and Commissioner Lenvin expressed her belief that the duty of the Task Force is to develop the best possible plan, as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned for a brief break between 8:00 and 8:10 PM.

Professor Rich DeLeon of San Francisco State University then addressed the Task Force. He discussed the alternative voting systems and noted that many San Franciscans believe there are only two options for electing Supervisors (at-large or district elections) when, in fact there are other options.

He proposed that the Task Force consider the following in developing proposals. Does the current system or an alternate system:

a. achieve a high level of civic inclusiveness by providing equal opportunities for all sizable groups to gain representation and policy making power?
b. advantage or disadvantage certain identifiable groups more than others?
c. produce an acceptable balance in the consideration representatives give to neighborhood level and city wide needs?
d. promote desirable forms of alliance building and coalition formation among the City's different interest groups?
e. increase the perceived value and meaningfulness of voting and thus encourage citizen participation in the political process?
f. expand opportunities for good leaders lacking independent wealth, financial connections or inherited name recognition to run for office with a realistic expectation of winning?
g. increase the responsiveness of the Board itself?
h. understandable to the average citizen?
i. be perceived by citizens as a fairer and more legitimate way to elect representatives and make them accountable?
j. increase or decrease the overall level of political conflict in the city in the future?
k. adapt to future changes in the population and its shifting needs for representation?

Professor DeLeon also suggested that previous election results be applied to various systems to ascertain how they might work in the future. He also suggested that should a new system be employed, moneys be reserved to study whether it achieves the ends desired by the Task Force.

Following an inquiry from Commissioner Bowman, Professor DeLeon noted that the "threshold of exclusion" in cumulative voting (i.e. below what percentage would someone not be elected in cumulative voting) would be 20% if there were 4 open seats. In response to a question from Commissioner Arias, Professor DeLeon answered that the size of the legislative body does not have a direct relationship to its functioning- in Chicago there are at least 50 members of the city council and other cities have even more representatives.

Commissioner Mar asked who might oppose cumulative voting. Professor DeLeon answered that it will be difficult for some groups to "give up" the idea of district elections since neighborhood interests are so strong in San Francisco. District elections, he said, are perceived as a "protection of territoriality."

Following this presentation the Task Force members resolved to discuss the charges of the group- aiming for consensus by March 30, following the community meetings. The tentative agenda will be to focus on issues relating to salary of members of the Board of Supervisors, whether elections should be held in even or odd years and whether Supervisors should be elected at once or in staggered terms on March 16. The following meeting (March 23) will focus on election systems and the number of members. This schedule, on a motion from Commissioner Lenvin, seconded by Commissioner Bowman was passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM, following a motion by Commissioner Lenvin, seconded by Commissioner Bowman.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Margie O'Driscoll.

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Elections Task Force
AGENDA
March 9, 1995
1660 Mission Street. #2001
San Francisco, CA
6:00-9:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
5. Presentation of information by David Binder
6. Finalize Community Meeting Agendas/ Report from Working Group
7. Discussion of Drafting Plan Process/ Possible Extension of May 1st Deadline
8. Unfinished business
9. Agenda for the following meeting
10. Public comment
11. Adjournment

Please note: The Elections Task Force meets every Thursday evening at this location. Community Meetings are also scheduled for March 11, 1-4 PM at Yik Wo Alternative School (2245 Jones Street) and March 14, 6-9 PM at Roosevelt Middle School, #101, (Presidio and Arguello.) Additional meetings are scheduled in other neighborhoods through out March. Please call 554-5777 for further information.

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3/9/95

Minutes
Elections Task Force
1660 Mission Street, #2001
San Francisco, CA
March 9, 1995

Present: Commissioners Mar, Butler, White S. Wong, Bowman, Arias, Craig, Lenvin
Excused: Commissioner Shimasaki
Others present: Margie O'Driscoll, David Binder

Meeting was called to order by Chair Craig at 6:14 PM.

Commissioner comments. Commissioner White noted that she had contacted legislators offices to arrange for meetings to discuss the work of the Elections Task Force. Commissioner Craig noted that she had subscribed to an E-mail system and had received comments relating to the work of the Task Force. These comments will be available in written form at the next meeting.

Minutes from the March 2nd meeting were approved unanimously following a motion from Commissioner Lenvin, seconded by Commissioner Wong.

Staff reported that 50 questionnaires were received. There will be advertisements for community meetings in three community newspapers (Sing Tao, El Mansejero and Sun Reporter) prior to the community meetings. The survey has been translated into Chinese and Spanish. Interpreters will be available at the first meeting in Chinatown.

Commissioner White summarized the work of the Working Group on Community meetings. The meeting, held at noon on March 9th was attended by Commissioners Bowman and White, Joe Diaz and Margie O'Driscoll. The Group made revisions on the handout, "Report of the Elections Task Force," which summarizes different methods of electing officials.

Discussion on the handout was briefly suspended due the fact that consultant David Binder had to leave the meeting early. Mr. Binder reported that costs of tabulating the questionnaires would be about $0.73 per copy. Commissioners Lenvin and White expressed concern about the expenditure of funds. Commissioner Bowman moved that the questionnaires be tabulated at a total cost not to exceed $500. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Butler. This motion carried, with Commissioner White abstaining and Commissioners Lenvin and Wong in opposition.

Discussion returned to the "Report of the Elections Task Force." This report, with significant editorial changes was approved by the Elections Task Force.

The Elections Task Force adjourned for a brief break between 8:12 PM and 8:30 PM.

Commissioner White then discussed the agenda for the community meetings. It was agreed, by consensus, that Commissioner Shimasaki would present information about compensation, Commissioner Bowman would discuss the cost of running for office and Commissioner Butler would present information relating to the number of seats on the Board of Supervisors and whether they ought to be elected in staggered terms or all at once.

This plan was accepted, following a motion by Commissioner Bowman seconded by Commissioner White.

Commissioners were unable to discuss whether to a time extension was possible. This will be discussed at the following meeting. Commissioner Lenvin moved that the Task Force request a legal opinion on the proxy voting system proposed by Wayne Shepard. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wong and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Margie O'Driscoll

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Minutes

Elections Task Force

Special meeting of working group
Thursday March 9, 1995
12 noon
Registrar of Voters Office
633 Folsom St., #109 (at Second St.)
San Francisco

Present: Commissioners Bowman and White
Others present: Margie O'Driscoll, Joe Diaz

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by Commissioner White.

The only item for discussion was "A Report of the Elections Task Force." This report, created by staff, summarizes methods of voting for officials and different systems used through the United States. It was noted that the page on Preference Voting was incomplete because staff had not finalized revisions with Steven Hill, a proponent of this system.

Commissioners and Mr. Diaz made extensive revisions to the draft which was to be provided to members of the Task Force at the March 9th meeting (at 6 PM).

(Note to the public: Copies of the completed document are available by calling 554-5777.)

No votes were taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM.

Minutes submitted by,
Margie O'Driscoll

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3/16/95

Elections Task Force
AGENDA
March 16, 1995
1660 Mission Street. #2001
San Francisco, CA
6:00-9:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
5. Discussion of whether elections should be held in even or odd years
6. Discussion of whether all members of the Board of Supervisors should be elected at the same time or in "staggered" years
7. Evaluation of community meetings
8. Discussion of drafting plan process and possible extension of the May 1st deadline
9. Legal opinion of proxy voting proposal
10. Presentation of information by David Binder
11. Unfinished business
12. Agenda for the following meeting
13. Public comment
11. Adjournment

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195

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Minutes
Elections Task Force
March 16, 1995
1660 Mission Street, #2001
San Francisco

Present: Commissioners Bowman, Shimasaki, White, Butler, Arias, Craig, Lenvin, Mar, Wong
Others present: Margie O'Driscoll, David Binder

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Chair Craig.

Commissioner comments. Commissioner Bowman said that he planned to meet with leaders in the African American community in the following week. Commissioner Butler noted that he planned to meet with two labor organizations in the coming week. Chair Craig pledged to provide written comments of E-mail correspondence available to Commissioners at the next meeting.

Commissioners Mar and Lenvin arrived at 6:15 PM.

Commissioner Bowman noted a misspelling of the newspaper El Mensajero in the minutes of March 9th. Noting this correction, following his motion, seconded by Commissioner Arias, the minutes of this meeting were unanimously approved.

In an evaluation of the last two community meetings (at Yick Wo Alternative School and Roosevelt Middle School) Commissioner Bowman noted that attendance was very low. Chair Craig observed that Commissioners should be careful about public statements during these meetings reflecting personal opinions and not necessarily the opinions of the entire committee. She further summarized themes of the public testimony submitted at these meetings. The first meeting, held in Chinatown, emphasized the need for simplicity in voting, to encourage a greater turnout. At the second meeting, comments focused more on the issue of compensation, with suggestions of increasing compensation of members of the Board of Supervisors, but restricting outside income and tightening conflict of interest laws.

Commissioner White suggested that at the future community meetings graphic handouts be available to the public. Commissioner Butler also suggested that meetings begin with specific topics of discussion and summaries of various voting systems. Following a second on this motion by Commissioner Lenvin, this was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Craig noted that handouts created by individuals should reflect that they are the opinions or research of an individual and not the work of the Committee as a whole.

David Binder presented preliminary results of the survey but cautioned that they are not yet complete.

Commissioner Butler moved that members of the Task Force meet with editorial boards of the Chronicle, Examiner and Independent and discuss the work of the group. Following a second by Commissioner Shimasaki, this motion was approved unanimously.

The Task Force adjourned for a brief break between 7:22-7:36 PM.

Commissioners discussed whether they thought elections for members of the Board of Supervisors should be held in even or odd years. Commissioner Bowman noted that Supervisors were elected in odd years until opponents of district elections moved it to even years. He further noted that one of the common complaints of this system is that

during even year elections, more attention is often paid to presidential or statewide office seekers than city office seekers.

Commissioner Bowman strongly supported moving elections to odd years, an opinion shared by many other members of the Committee. Commissioner Wong then asked what cities elect Supervisors in even or odd years. He further suggested that three criteria be used to by the Committee to reach consensus on this issue:

a) which manner (even or odd year elections) maximizes turnout;
b) does either manner affect cost, and if so, by how much?
c) if Supervisors were elected in odd years, what would the effect be on existing members of the Board of Supervisors?

Following a motion by Commissioner Butler, seconded by Commissioner Wong, staff was asked to research which jurisdictions in California have even or odd year elections, whether other cities elect officials in staggered elections or "all-at-once," and the size of other city councils. This motion was passed unanimously. Commissioner Lenvin departed at 8:00 PM.

Committee members then discussed whether it was best to elect all members of the Board of Supervisors at the same time or in staggered elections. Commissioner Shimasaki noted the problem with a lack of continuity if all members were elected at the same time and voters elected an entirely new group of officials. It was further noted that it could be confusing to voters if not all voters voted for Supervisors in an election year (i.e. if a district election system were utilized and only some Supervisors from some parts of the City stood for election, it could be confusing if all voters were not voting for representatives.)

Commissioner Craig then summarized the legal opinion from City Attorney Randy Riddle, regarding an extension of the work of the Committee. This opinion said it is not possible to have a formal extension and not meeting the May 1st deadline could have negative implications for the future results of the proposal(s) submitted by the Task Force to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Bowman expressed his opinion that it would be impossible to draw lines by the May 1st deadline, should district elections be the recommendation of the Task Force.

Commissioner Shimaski then suggested that the Committee discuss drafting of the report. He recommended that Commissioner Bowman write a piece about compensation of the members of the Board of Supervisors, Commissioner Butler write about the number of seats, staggered elections or "all-at-once" elections and he (Commissioner Shimasaki) would write about compensation . A summary of the work of the Elections Task Force would also be created by a member designated by the Chair. These topics would be further discussed at the following meeting.

Following a motion by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Bowman, minutes of the Working Group for Community meetings, were unanimously approved.

Staff was asked to invite Supervisor Hallinan, author of the legislation which created the Task Force, to attend the following meeting. Staff was also asked to send a copy of City Attorney Riddle's opinion regarding extension of the timeline of the Task Force to all the members of the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioners also agreed to do short summaries of voting systems at the start of all community meetings. Assignments are as follows: Commissioner Bowman, the district elections system; Commissioner White , the preference voting system; Commissioner Mar, the limited voting system; Commissioner Arias, the at-large system; Commissioner Craig, the numbered seat system; Commissioner Wong, the "mixed" (at-large and district election) system and Commissioner Lenvin (in her absence), the cumulative voting system.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Margie O'Driscoll

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Agenda
Elections Task Force
March 23, 1995
6:00-9:00 PM
1660 Mission Street, #2001
San Francisco

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
5. Legal opinion of proxy voting proposal
6. Discussion of drafts of final report
7. Finalize April community meeting schedule
8. Presentation of Supervisor Hallinan of campaign finance reform and other issues relating to the work of the Task Force
9. Presentation of comparative information of election systems of other jurisdictions (for example, odd/even year elections, number of members on city councils)
10. Unfinished business
11. Agenda for the following meeting
12. Public comment
13. Adjournment

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Minutes
Elections Task Force
1660 Mission Street, #2001
San Francisco, CA
March 23, 1995

Present: Commissioners Bowman, Shimasaki, Mar, Lenvin, Butler, White, Wong, Craig, Arias
Others present: Germaine Wong, Registrar of Voters, Margie O'Driscoll

Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM.

Commissioner Comments
Commissioner Butler said that he had attended several meetings within the labor community and informed groups of the progress of the Elections Task Force. Commissioner White stated that she had attended a joint meeting of several neighborhood groups and informed members of the work of the Task Force. Chair Craig noted that she had posted the survey on-line and that responses would be sent directly to David Binder. She also noted that she had attended a meeting of African American leaders.

Following a motion by Commissioner Butler, seconded by Commissioner Lenvin, the minutes of the March 16 meeting were unanimously approved, noting only that Commissioner Shimasaki would be speaking to issues of compensation of members of the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Hallinan then addressed the Elections Task Force. He spoke about his authorship of legislation which limits campaign spending. Mayoral candidates are limited to $600,000 in expenditures in the primary and $400,000 in a run-off election. Supervisors will be limited to $250,000.

Commissioners Arias, Bowman and Wong arrived at 6:25 PM.

Supervisor Hallinan expressed his belief that many good potential candidates are deterred from seeking office due to the amount of fundraising necessary to win a seat. The goal of the legislation is to make elections more affordable Supervisor Hallinan noted that while he had run twice for the Board of Supervisors under the district election system and lost, he still preferred the system. He also expressed his belief that the President of the Board of Supervisors should be elected citywide and reminded the Task Force that the plan(s) the group suggests must be sold to at least six members of the Board of Supervisors, and ultimately the voters, for any plan to take effect. He noted that many current members of the Board of Supervisors prefer district elections to the current system since the pace of running for office under the current system is so grueling.

Task Force members then discussed the Proxy Voting proposal suggested by Wayne Shepard. Mr. Shepard described this system as a limited voting system which not only elects members to the Board of Supervisors but also can sway legislation. (Complete copies of the proposal are available by calling 554-5777.)

Task Force members then presented concept papers for drafting of the final report. Commissioner White focused on the history of the Elections Task Force (its creation through legislation, meeting topics, etc...), Commissioner Butler provided information regarding the appropriate number of members to the Board of Supervisors and Commissioner Shimasaki presented information regarding compensation levels.

Commissioner Bowman suggested the following format for presentation of the information: recommendations followed by analysis (including alternatives). Commissioner Lenvin suggested that while the report is presented to community groups (during April) the information be simultaneously submitted to the City Attorney's office for drafting for possible charter amendment(s).

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Following a discussion about the current system of electing members of the Board of Supervisors, all Commissioners expressed dissatisfaction with this system. Commissioner Lenvin volunteered to write a commentary about problems with the current system. In addition, all Commissioners agreed to the need for an Executive Summary.

Germaine Q Wong, Registrar of Voters and ex-officio member of the Elections Task Force, presented information regarding administrative and financial considerations in changing the method of electing members of the Board of Supervisors. She noted that there was space on the ballot to move elections from even to odd years. In fact, in even year elections the ballots are often full.

Preferential and cumulative voting, said Ms. Wong, would require a different system of voting cards. In Cambridge, MA for example, ballots for the Board of Education are hand-tallied, a process which takes about one week. She further noted that Alamagordo, NM, no longer uses cumulative voting. This system was in place just as long as it was required by court order.

Regarding costs, she noted that elections in San Francisco cost between $500,000 and $1.8 million. Implementing a new system for cumulative or preferential voting would involve the purchase of new machinery, at an approximate cost of $600,000. She noted that the City is exploring the purchase of new machines, in any case. In response to a question from Commissioner Mar, Ms. Wong noted that election costs could rise under a district election system since there would need to be multiple ballots.

Many cities are also choosing not to include local races with gubernatorial and presidential races because of the level of attention paid to these "higher profile" elections. In response to a question from Chair Craig, Ms. Wong said that changing the voting system was always difficult in the first election but by the third most voters adapted to changes.

Commissioner Lenvin moved to remove public comment from the beginning of the agendas. Following a second from Commissioner Bowman, this motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Margie O'Driscoll

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3/30/95

Elections Task Force
AGENDA
March 30, 1995
1660 Mission Street. #2001
San Francisco, CA
6:00-9:00 PM

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
4. Presentation of Survey Information by David Binder
5. Discussion of election systems
6. Evaluation of comparative information of other jurisdictions
7. Discussion of final report draft
8. Unfinished business
9. Agenda for the following meeting
10. Unfinished Business
11. Public comment
12. Adjournment

Please note: The Elections Task Force meets every Thursday evening at this location. In addition to these regularly scheduled meetings, the Task Force will hold a series of meetings in different neighborhoods throughout the month of April. Please call 554-5777 for further information.

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Minutes
Elections Task Force
1680 Mission Street, Suite 2001
San Francisco, California
March 30,1995

Present: Commissioners Bowman, Butler, Craig, Lenvin, Mar, Shimasaki, White, Wong
Absent: Commissioner Arias
Others present: Jennifer Novak representing the Registrar of Voters, David Binder, Andy Ives (Office of Supervisor Hallinan)

Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Commissioners Mar, Bowman, Butler, Wong, White recounted their experiences with their various respective meetings with different community groups.

Following a motion by Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Butler, the minutes of the meeting of March 23 were unanimously approved.

Following a motion by Commissioner Wong, seconded by Commissioner Bowman, the agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved.

David Binder then addressed the Elections Task Force and reviewed the nearly-complete results, with 148 responses back, of the questionnaire distributed in March.

A discussion of different election systems ensued, in which each member present explained his or her respective preference regarding systems:

Commissioner Shimasaki: district elections with cumulative voting, or a mixed system if necessary

Commissioner Mar: (ranked) (1) 11 districts, (2) 5 districts with 3 Supervisors each, preference voting, (3) 5 districts with 3 Supervisors each, cumulative voting

Commissioner Bowman: discussed various factors important to him: districts representing communities of interest, limited voting, multi-member districts, a threshold of 5-10% to get elected, runoffs where necessary, strict caps on expenditures, an at-large president of the Board

Commissioner Lenvin: nothing unusual will be approved by the electorate, (ranked) (1) mixed system with a maximum of 11 seats, 9 districts and 2 at-large, president at-large, (distant 2nd) cumulative voting, (3) limited system

Commissioner Butler: 5 districts with 3 Supervisors each, return to odd years, stagger seats

Commissioner Wong: (1) district elections, (2) mixed district and at-large

Commissioner White: 7 districts with 2 each, president elected at-large

Commissioner Craig: 8 districts, 1 Supervisor each, 3 at-large, top vote-getter is president or Board elects ownpresidentin years when there is no at-large race, staggered elections, 3 at-large simultaneously, preference voting system, keep number at 11.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Novak noted that Registrar of Voters Germaine Q. Wong supports the idea of possibly submitting more than 1 option for the ballot. Task Force members discussed the relative merits of increasing the size of the Board of Supervisors, having small vs. large districts, mixed systems, the applicability of the Voting Rights Act, the level of remuneration provided Supervisors, ethnic percentages in the City, the cost of elections, and the possibility of presenting more than one option to the voters.

Commissioner Bowman moved, Commissioner Wong seconded, that the current system of electing Supervisors not be one of the options further to be considered. The motion passed unanimously.

Task Force member agreed to consider four options: (1) a mixed system, (2) multi-member districts, (3) single-member districts, (4) an at-large system with an alternative voting system.

Commissioner Bowman moved, Commissioner Lenvin seconded, a proposal for 9 single-member districts, with members elected to 4-year terms, and that there be 2 members elected at-large, also to 4-year terms, in staggered elections every 2 years. In favor: Commissioners Bowman, Butler, Lenvin, Mar, Shimasaki, White, Wong. Opposed: Commissioner Craig. Abstaining: None.

Commissioner Bowman moved, Commissioner Lenvin seconded, a proposal for an implementation phase to the aforementioned proposal, in which it would take effect starting in 1997, with half the district Board members and one at-large Supervisor then elected serving 2-year terms, the remainder of the district Board members and the other at-large Supervisor then elected serving 4-year terms. The motion passed unanimously.

Following a break, Task Force members briefly discussed the relative merits of different ways of electing the Board president.

Commissioner Butler then moved, and Commissioner White seconded, a proposal to divide the City into 5 districts, each of from which 3 Supervisors would be elected. In favor: Commissioners Bowman, Butler, Craig, Mar, Shimasaki, White, Wong. Opposed: Commissioner Lenvin. Abstaining: None.

Commissioner Bowman then moved, and Commissioner Shimasaki seconded, a proposal that the voting system used within each of the 5 districts be the cumulative voting system. The relative merits of preference and cumulative voting were then discussed. In favor: Commissioners Bowman, Shimasaki. Opposed: Commissioners Butler, Craig, Mar, White, Wong. Abstaining: Lenvin.

Commissioner Butler then moved, and Commissioner White seconded, a proposal that the voting system used within each of the 5 districts be the preference voting system. In favor: Commissioners Butler, Craig, Mar, Shimasaki, White. Opposed: Commissioners Bowman, Wong. Abstaining: Lenvin.

Commissioner Bowman then moved, and Commissioner White seconded, a proposal that there be 11 single-member districts, each district—per an amendment made by Commissioner Mar—being compact; optimizing the voting power of voting blocs, including racial and ethnic minorities and social, economic, and political minorities; and respecting neighborhood integrity and natural geography. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Bowman then moved, and Commissioner Lenvin seconded, a proposal that there be runoffs in each district if no candidate received 50% in the initial vote. In favor: Commissioners Bowman, Butler, Craig, Lenvin, Shimasaki, Wong. Opposed: Commissioner Mar, White. Abstaining: None.

Commissioner White then moved, and Commissioner Bowman seconded, a proposal that the elections be staggered; i.e., that not all 11 members be elected at the same time. The vote was unanimous.

The fourth possibility to have been presented (an at-large system with an alternative voting system) was not discussed. Agenda item #7 (discussion of final report draft) was tabled. Commissioner Shimasaki suggested that a discussion of the Task Force's community meetings be added to the agenda for the April 6 meeting.

Commissioner Wong moved, and Commissioner Lenvin seconded, approval of the agendas for the April 2 and April 6 Task Force meetings. The vote was unanimous.

Mike Housh, aide to Supervisor Ammiano, reported on a conversation he had had with TJ Anthony, aide to Supervisor Kaufman. Anthony had told him that the Board of Supervisors' Select Committee on Charter Reform had decided, for the part of their Charter reform proposal pertaining to the way Supervisors are elected, to defer to the results of any public referendum on this topic, regardless of whether this Supervisorial election referendum proposal garnered more or fewer votes than any proposed omnibus Charter reform on the ballot.

Various Task Force members expressed their pleasure over the imminent return of Margie O'Driscoll as note-taker at Task Force meetings.

Commissioner Butler moved, and Bowman seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Agenda
Elections Task Force
Special Meeting
April 2, 1995
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM
401 Van Ness, #322
San Francisco

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Discussion of appropriate salaries for members of the Board of Supervisors
6. Discussion of appropriate number of seats on the Board of Supervisors
7. Discussion of the most appropriate manner of selection of the president of the Board of Supervisors
8. Discussion of legislative effect of changes in the process of electing members of the Board of Supervisors
9. Other issues relating to drafting of the final report
10. Unfinished business
11. Agenda for the following meeting
12. Public comment
13. Adjournment

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6/95

Elections Task Force
AGENDA
April 6, 1995
1660 Mission Street. #2001
San Francisco, CA
6:00-9:00 PM

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MAR 27 1995
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1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

4. Presentation of Survey Information by David Binder

5. Discussion of final report draft

6. Presentation of information from Registrar of Voters

7. Unfinished business

8. Agenda for the following meeting

9. Public comment

10. Adjournment

Please note: The Elections Task Force meets every Thursday evening at this location (except April 20.) In addition to these regularly scheduled meetings, the Task Force will hold a series of meetings in different neighborhoods throughout the month of April. Please call 554-5777 for further information.

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STREET PARKING: Two blue zones at 1695 Mission Street near the corner of Duboce & Mission and two on Otis near Duboce.

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Minutes
Elections Task Force
1660 Mission Street, #2001
San Francisco, CA
April 6, 1995

Present: Commissioners Bowman, Shimasaki, Mar, Lenvin, Butler, White, Wong, Craig, Arias
Others present: Germaine Wong, Registrar of Voters, Margie O'Driscoll

Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

Commissioner Comments

Germaine Wong showed several sample maps of district lines which were developed by members of her staff. Commissioners Bowman and Samson Wong noted that they would be discussing the work of the Elections Task Force on the program, "SF Politics". Chair Criag noted that she had spoken at the District 8 Democratic Club and had also, with Commissioner White, spoken at the Harvey Milk Club Political Action Committee.

There was no report from David Binder, however, it was noted that he would be providing maps for the first community meeting. Mr. Bayma, a member of the public then presented a proposal for consideration of the Elections Task Force.

Commissioner Bowman noted that the current campaign spending limit will be $250,000 for Supervisoral elections (if approved by the Mayor.) He moved that the limitbe reduced, should district elections be recommended, based on the number of registered voters per district. For the purposes of discussion, Chair Craig seconded the motion. Commissioner Shimasaki noted that this could be a disincentive for candidates to register voters. Noting this concern, Commissioner Bowman modified his motion (seconded by Commissioner Butler, to urge that the Board of Supervisors reduce the spending cap, should a district election plan be approved. The motion was approved by the Commisisoners, however. Commissioner Lenvin voted against the motion.

Commisisoner Bowman then moved that 90% of the funds raised for supervisoral campaigns must be raised in San Francisco and 75% must be raised within the district. He suggested that this be a recommendation of the Task Force. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Samson Wong. Commissioner Lenvin observed that this proposal discriminated against lower income neighborhoods. Commisisoner Shimasaki voiced his opposition by citing the successes that many first time Japanese American candidates had in raising funds outside their districts. Commissioners oppposed this motion, except for Commissioner Bowman who voted aye and Commissioner White who abstained.

Commisisoner Bowman then moved that the Task Force support continuation of term limits of the members of the Board of Supervisors. Following a secon from Commissioner Samson Wong, the Task Force tabled the motion.

Commissioner Butler moved that the Task Force recommend moving elections to odd numbered years. There was general consesnucus in favor of the motion, except from Commissioner Craig who noted that should the proposal be recommended by the Committee it should take the form of a sepoarate charter amendment (aside from others recommended by the Task Force.) All members supported the motion with the exception of Commissioner Craig who abstained.

The committee adjourned for a brief break between 7:50 PM and 8:05 PM.

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Commissioners then discussed and approved four alternate proposals to submit at community meetings. The first is to elect 11 supervisors, from districts who would be elected "at-large" through a cumulative voting system. The second proposal is to create 11 districts, electing members through "preference voting" (also called a single transferrable vote system.) The third system is to elect 9 Supervisors from districts and elect 2 "at-large" through the current sytem of voting. The final proposal is to create 5 districts and elect 3 representatives from each district (A copy of the complete report, with additional information is available by calling 554-5777.)

In addition a recommendation to increase compensation of members of the Board of Supervisors and make it a full-time job was approved unanimously.

Commisoners then discussed the community meetings and the need to remind members of the public that the Task Force has not endorsed any particular ddistrict election map and the various maps which have been circulated are for educational purposes only. At the community meetings, Commissioner White will speak about single member districts (or Chair Craig); the "9/2 system" will be addressed by Commisisoner Samson Wong (or Commissioner Lenvin); the "5/3 system" will be discussed by Commissioner Butler (or Commissioner Bowman); "11-At-large" will be discussed by Commissioner Mar (or Commissioner Lenvin). Commissioner Shimasaki will speak about compensation and Commissioner Bowman will speak about moving elections to odd numbered years

The minutes of the March 30 meeting were unanimously approved, with the folowing notation: Commissioner Shimasaki noted that he supported proposals fordistrict elections and an "at-large" cumulative system. Great thanks was given to Andy Ilves who did a superior job at recording the actions of the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Margie O'Driscoll

Elections Task Force
AGENDA
April 13, 1995
(NOTE: different location)
Park Branch Library
1833 Page St.
San Francisco, CA
6:00-9:00 PM

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Please note: There will be a brief break between 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
4. Community comments on proposed draft
5. Presentation of information by David Binder
6. Unfinished business
7. Agenda for the following meeting
8. Public comment
9. Adjournment

Please note the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20th at 1660 Mission Street., 6:00- 9:00 PM.

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Minutes
Elections Task Force Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 1995
6:00 PM
Park Branch Library
1833 Page St.
San Francisco

Present: Commissioners Bowman, Arias, Shimasaki, Lenvin, Butler, Mar, White, Wong
Excused: Chair Craig was not at the meeting due to the birth of her grand-daughter.
Others present: Germaine Q Wong (ex-officio); Margie O'Driscoll, Brad Brubaker of David Binder Research

Meeting was called to order at 6:14 PM by Carmen White who served as Chair.

David Brubaker, representing David Binder Research presented a variety of draft maps for the consideration of the Committee. Members of the Committee asked for additional information to accompany these maps (including party affiliation, ethnicity and gender.) Commissioner Bowman also expressed his concern about the splitting of several neighborhoods. Mr. Brubaker promised to provide additional information at the following meeting.

The Committee adjourned for a brief break between 7:00 and 7:30 PM.

The meeting resumed at 7:35 PM when the Elections Task Force presented its findings to the people assembled. A number of comments were received. Calvin Welch expressed his dissatisfaction about the district lines drawn by Commissioner Bowman and also recommended including, as an option, the former district elections lines. Like many of those present, he spoke in favor of 11 districts with single members, with run-off elections, if necessary. Commissioners commented that the "old" lines would need to be re-drawn due to population shifts.

Other comments included:

-the variety of voting systems (cumulative, preference voting) were too complicated
-any recommendations from the Elections Task Force should include strong limits on campaign spending
-instituting geographic districts is more important than new systems, as a strategy, it is better to push for districts now and review systems at a later date

Following these comments from members of the public, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 with special thanks to HANC for co-hosting this meeting.

Minutes submitted by,
Margie O'Driscoll

S.F

Agenda

Elections Task Force

Thursday, April 20, 1995

6:00- 9:00 PM

1660 Mission St., #2001

San Francisco, CA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of agenda
4. Report on Community meetings
5. Discussion of issues relating to ethics package
6. Transition issues (relating to moving election of members of the Board to odd-numbered years)
7. City attorney opinion on compensation (i.e. can members of the Board of Supervisors vote on their own compensation?)
8. Discussion of recommendation concerning drawing of district lines (should this be a final recommendation, who should draw the lines?)
9. Presentation of final survey information from David Binder and potential district maps
10. Discussion of Final report
11. Unfinished business
12. Public comment
13. Adjournment

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Minutes
Elections Task Force
Thursday, April 20, 1995
6:00- 9:00 PM
1660 Mission Street, #2001
San Francisco, CA

Present: Commissioners Shimasaki, Bowman, Mar, White, Craig, Wong, Butler
Others present: David Binder, Margie O'Driscoll.

Meeting was called to order at 6:25 PM by Chair Craig.

Commissioner Bowman noted that he had recently appeared on SF Politics with Germaine Q Wong, Registrar of Voters. He also noted that, according to his preliminary research of Chinese American precincts, minority turnout in odd and even years was not significantly different from that of the general voting population. Commissioner Butler noted that the low turnout at community meetings may reflect the fact that some communities are satisfied with their current levels of representation. Commissioner Wong noted that he had spoken at the New Mission Terrace Association, explaining the work of the Task Force.

Commissioner Shimasaki spoke to the issue of an "ethics package" which could accompany the recommendations of the Task Force. He explained that the charter currently covers many of the provisions that the Task Force supported.

Commissioners then discussed an extension of the current terms, should elections move to odd numbered years. Commissioner Bowman observed that if the "at-large system with cumulative voting" was approved, a one year extension of terms would be needed. If an 11 district, 9/2 or 5/3 plan was adopted, the members would initially be elected in 1997 and serve staggered terms thereafter. This was placed in the form of a motion and passed unanimously by the Task Force.

Commissioner Mar seconded a motion by Commissioner White to request that the proposal of odd-year elections be submitted to the voters as a separate charter amendment. This motion was passed unanimously by the task Force.

Commissioner Bowman submitted a proposal to create a special " masters commission" to draw district lines. After lengthy discussion, the members agreed that they would not be drawing lines by the May 1st deadline. However, members of the Task Force noted that at community meetings, members of the public had overwhelming stated the need to know district lines to support a district election proposal. Members also discussed their concern with members of the Board of Supervisors drawing their own district lines and suggested that any lines must be voted for (or against) without revision. Commissioner Bowman proposed that if district lines were not drawn in time for November, 1995 ballot, district lines should be placed on the March, 1996

ballot. This motion was supported by Commissioners Wong, White, Bowman and Shimasaki. It was opposed by Commissioners Craig and Mar. Commissioner Butler abstained.

After continued discussion on the merits of submitting district lines, in order to place a ballot issue on the November 1995 ballot, Commissioner Butler made the following motion. He requested that the current Elections Task Force members extend their term of duty to include 30 more days of accepting suggestions for drawing lines and an additional 30 days to hold hearings on proposed lines; presenting the Board of Supervisors with district lines on July 7, 1995. He further added that since resignations of members may occur, he would suggest that appointing powers fill vacancies. This motion was passed unanimously.

There was a brief discussion about whether staff might be provided from the Registrar of Voters office or the Department of City Planning to aid the Elections Task Force with their work.

The group adjourned for a brief break between 8:15-8:30 PM.

Following the break, David Binder presented a summary of the responses of the community survey. He cautioned that the results of the survey are based on opinions from individuals "who are disproportionately concerned with and informed about local politics." Respondents preferred district elections over other options; believed that the job of Supervisors should be full-time and supported raising the salary. Respondents also favored staggered elections and 60% believed Supervisors should be elected in even years.

Mr. Binder also presented several different district line maps for the Task Force. He noted that his priority was keeping neighborhoods and ethnic groups together and respecting geographic boundaries.

David Fairley then presented information to the Task Force comparing spending and election outcomes under at-large and district systems. His information indicated that under district elections, challengers were able to win, spending considerably less money than under the at-large system

Following a motion by Commissioner Butler, seconded by Commissioner White, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Margie O'Driscoll

SF

/95

Agenda
Elections Task Force
Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 25, 1995
6:00- 9:00 PM
633 Folsom St., #109 (between 2nd and 3rd Sts.)
San Francisco, CA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of agenda
4. Discussion of Final report
5. Unfinished business
6. Public comment
7. Adjournment

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Agenda
Elections Task Force
Special Meeting
Wednesday, April 26, 1995
6:00- 9:00 PM
633 Folsom St., #109
San Francisco, CA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of agenda
4. Discussion of Final report
5. Unfinished business
6. Public comment
7. Adjournment

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SF

Agenda
Elections Task Force
Special Meeting
Wednesday, April 26, 1995
6:00- 9:00 PM
633 Folsom St., #109
San Francisco, CA

CANCELLED

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of agenda
4. Discussion of Final report
5. Unfinished business
6. Public comment
7. Adjournment

Transportation: Montgomery Street BART is 4 blocks away.
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MOVED TO FRIDAY, April 28 - begins 5:00 PM

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Agenda
Elections Task Force
Thursday, April 27, 1995
6:00- 9:00 PM
1660 Mission Street, #2001
San Francisco, CA

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Discussion of Final report
6. Issues of succession (i.e. filling of vacancies on the Board of Supervisors due to resignation)
7. Proposal from Task Force member Samson Wong regarding preservation of neighborhood integrity and communitics of interest
8. City attorney opinion on compensation of members of the Board of Supervisors (i.e. can members of the Board of Supervisors vote on their own salary?)
9. Unfinished business
10. Public comment
11. Adjournment

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Agenda
Elections Task Force
Special Meeting
Friday, April 28, 1995
5:00- 9:00 PM
633 Folsom St., #109
San Francisco, CA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of agenda
4. Discussion of Final report
5. Unfinished business
6. Public comment
7. Adjournment

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

AGENDA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995 - 5:30 P.M.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS' BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 322 (3rd FLOOR)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. REMARKS BY SUPERVISOR TERENCE HALLINAN
2. STATUS REPORT
3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

MEETING OF
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1995

CANCELED & RESCHEDULED

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NEW MEETING DATE & TIME:
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1995
6:00 P.M.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS' BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 322 (3rd FLOOR)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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MEETING OF

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ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

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AGENDA

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS' BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 322 (3rd FLOOR)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
2. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH PUBLIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR COMPUTER DATA ANALYSIS & MAP CONFIGURATIONS
3. PLANNING FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES
4. NEW BUSINESS
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
6. DRAFT OF NEXT AGENDA

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

AGENDA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1995 - 12:00 NOON

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS' BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 322 (3rd FLOOR)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
2. SETTING UP OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS
3. CONTINUED STAFFING OF ELECTIONS TASK FORCE
4. PLANNING FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES
5. NEW BUSINESS
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. DRAFT OF NEXT AGENDA

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MEETING OF

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ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

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AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS' BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 322 (3rd FLOOR)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
2. SETTING UP OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS
3. CONTINUED STAFFING OF ELECTIONS TASK FORCE
4. PLANNING FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES
5. NEW BUSINESS
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. DRAFT OF NEXT AGENDA

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

AGENDA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1995 - 10:00 A.M.

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS' BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 322 (3rd FLOOR)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
2. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY MEETINGS
3. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DISTRICT MAPS
4. PLANNING FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES
5. NEW BUSINESS
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. DRAFT OF NEXT AGENDA

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO
LAUREL HEIGHTS CAMPUS
3333 CALIFORNIA STREET
SUBLEVEL 1 CONFERENCE ROOM
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DISTRICTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

CHINESE CULTURAL CENTER
HOLIDAY INN, 3rd FLOOR
750 KEARNY STREET (AT WASHINGTON)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DISTRICTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

NEW COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA
777 VALENCIA (AT 19TH STREET)
1st FLOOR AUDITORIUM
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DISTRICTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY FACILITY
1800 OAKDALE (AT PHELPS)
ROOM 410
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DISTRICTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

COUNTY FAIR BUILDING (FORMERLY HALL OF FLOWERS)
GOLDEN GATE PARK (ENTRANCE AT 9th AVENUE & LINCOLN)
LIBRARY ROOM
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1995 - 10:00 A.M.

AGENDA

1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DISTRICTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS' BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 322 (3rd FLOOR)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DISTRICTS
2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS' BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 322 (3rd FLOOR)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
2. RESULTS OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS; DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DISTRICTS
3. PLANNING FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES
4. NEW BUSINESS
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
6. DRAFT OF NEXT AGENDA

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

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WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS' BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 322 (3rd FLOOR)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
2. RESULTS OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS; DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DISTRICTS
3. PLANNING FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES
4. NEW BUSINESS
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
6. DRAFT OF NEXT AGENDA

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MEETING OF

ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS' BUILDING
401 VAN NESS AVENUE, ROOM 322 (3rd FLOOR)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1995 - 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
2. DISCUSSION OF TASK FORCE PROPOSALS AND LEGISLATION
3. PLANNING FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES
4. NEW BUSINESS
5. PUBLIC COMMENT